(Acres)

1	2	3
11. Maharashtra	1,09,999	83,380
12. Orissa	2,05,895	1,42,157
13. Punjab	5,168	981
14. Rajasthan	6,05,232	1,57,196
15. Tamil Nadu	51,330	22,931
16. Uttar Pradesh	4,36,421	4,20,087
17. West Bengal	45	33
18. Delhi	300	150
TOTAL :	42,08,144.67 1/2	17,92,881.75 1/2

Development and Utilisation of culturable waste land

91. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 16.7 million hectares of culturable wasteland in the country the development and utilisation of which is not being monitored;

(b) if so, what are the details of such Jand in each State; and

(c) the steps being taken for the development and utilisation of such waste land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The extent of culturable wasteland in the country was estimated at 16.7 million ha. during 1980-81 and at 16.41 million ha during 1981-82. According to the latest estimates (1982-83) available with the Directorate of Economical and Statistics, the total culturablr wasteland in the country has been reported to be 16.31 million ha. The State-wise detail of such land is given in the attached statement.

(c) The Government of India had constituted a "Wasteland Survey Reclamation Committee" in 1959 which had identified culturable wasteland of about 6.4 lakh ha. in blocks of more than 100 ha. each in 15 States. During 1961-62 to 1968-69. under a Centrally sponsored scheme of "Survey and Categorisation of Wastelands in blocks of less than 100 ha.", an area of 2.3 million ha. of culturable wasteland in 15 States was identified as suitable for reclamation. During the same period under another Centrally sponsored scheme of "Reclamation of culturable wasteland for the settlement of landless agricultural workers", a total number of 1.11 lakh families of such labourers were resettled in about 1.9 million ha. of reclaimed wasteland.

In 1977-78, the Government of India had sponsored a study through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the idle or unutilised land under the operational holdings. This study was carried out in Anantpur, Belgaum, Chittorgarh, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Ratnagiri with the help of the local Agricultural Universities. It has revealed that the causes of land remaining idle were unlevelled and rocky nature of land, low fertility, degradation and erosion

problems, lack of resources, etc. The Working Group on Land Reclamation and Development for the formulation of the Seventh Five Year plan had recommended for taking up a Centrally sponsored scheme for '"Survey, Categorisation and Restoration of culturable wasteland and fallows other than current fallows" with an outlay of Rs. 255 crores. The scheme envisages undertaking survey and categorisation Over 2 million, of area comprising 1.2 million ha. of culturable wase-land and 0.8 million ha. of long fallows and developing restoring about 5 lakh ha. of area (comprising 3 lakh ha. of culturable wasteland and 2 lakh ha. of long fallows) to productive uses during the Seventh Plan. Owing to financial constraints and no allocations provided during the Annual Plans 1985-86 and 1986-87 and also for the Seventh Plan, it has not been possible to initiate the scheme so far.

The National Wastelands Development Board hss been set up for undertaking large scale afforestation programme in wastelands for raising fuelwood and fodder.

Statement

(in lakh ha.)

State	Culturable wasteland
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9.0
Assam	1.1
Bihar	4.2
Gujarat	19.7
Haryana	0.5
Himachal Pradesh	2.4
Jammu & Kashmir	1.5
Karnataka	5.0
Kerala	1.3
Madhya Pradesh	18.0
Mahurashtra	9.9
Orissa	2.5
Punjab	0.4
Rajasthan	62.0
Tamil Nadu	3.3
Uttar Pradesh	11.5
West Bengal	3.7
Others	7.1
ALL INDIA	163.1

Seminars by NAMEDIA

92. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Namedia, the Media Foundation of the Non-aligned, has been carrying out series of seminar around the country on Doordarshan "Today and Tomorrow".

(b) what is Government's reaction to this project; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider its recommendations for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government welcomes such open discussions, as these seminars are intended to arouse a public debate with the ultimate objective of improvement of Doordarshan.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government would consider its recommendations.